Development of ancient Nalanda University in Bihar

1512. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASI proposes to develop ancient Nalanda University in Bihar

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there are similar ancient heritage centres in Orissa which are also required to be developed to promote tourism in the State; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to develop such sites in the States?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal in Archaeological Survey of India to develop ancient Nalanda as a University. The excavated remains at Nalanda are protected as monument/site of national importance by Archaeological Survey of India. Regular conservation and preservation measures are undertaken for its proper maintenance and upkeep. Tourist amenities like toilet blocks, drinking water facilities, signages, publications counters, pathways, approach road etc. have also been provided at the site.

(c) and (d) The excavated sites at Lalitagiri, Udayagiri, Ratnagiri and Langudi Hill are protected as of national importance. These sites are in good state of preservation and conservation.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 740.67 lakhs in 2004-05 for the development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa for providing basic facilities at Langudi and other Buddhist places. The Department of Culture, Government of Orissa has also taken up an integrated action plan for this purpose.

Promotion and development of historical and religious culture in Andhra Pradesh

1513. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Policy has been formulated and implemented

by Government for promotion and development of historical and religious culture in the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financial grants allocated for the same by Government during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. However, a Committee has been constituted to formulate a draft Policy on Culture.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up on Public Library at Panchayat level

1514. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Public Library at every Panchayat level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Setting up of Public Libraries is a subject of the State Governments.

Development of Boddh pilgrim centres

†1515. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the name of countries which have offered to extend assistance till 31st December, 2006 for the development of Boddh pilgrim centres;

(b) the areas for which this assistance has been offered;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.